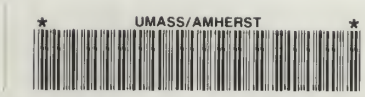
MASS. HS 30.3002:M38



MASSACHUSETTS VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Mission Statement:

The Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force is a broad-based, culturally inclusive collaboration of legislators, federal, state, local and community organizations and institutions committed to working together to obtain peace, health and justice for everyone in our Commonwealth.

The Task Force's mission is to support and develop effective violence prevention initiatives by providing leadership and advocacy, promoting collaborations among organizations, developing and recommending policy, and promoting research and development.

Summary of the Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force Activities:

FY '97 $170,000

- $100,000 granted to **15 elementary schools** to establish school-based violence prevention programs. **Over 100 schools applied for the grant.**
- Networking event was held at the State House in March 1998.
- Compiled, printed and distributed the Prejudice/Discrimination-Based Violence Prevention Resource Guide in collaboration with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation.
- Part-time MVPTF Coordinator hired in January 1998.

FY '98 $200,000

- Continued funding for **15 elementary schools.**
- Task Force Coordinator position expanded to full-time.
- Hosted a networking event and public policy advocacy training in September 1997.
- Sponsored our first violence prevention conference, "Sharing Our Successes: Violence Prevention Strategies that Work" with 250 participants in May 1998
- Held a two and one half day strategic planning training for community teams working on violence prevention. **23 teams applied and 10 were accepted.** 44 participants attended the training and each community team received a $1,000 grant.
- Printed and distributed [illegible]ren See Through Violence in the Media [illegible] in collaboration with the Massachusetts Media [illegible]

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/massachusettsvio00mass_0

MASSACHUSETTS
VIOLENCE PREVENTION
TASK FORCE

FY '99 $200,000

- Issued a Request for Response for $90,000 for community-wide violence prevention projects. **There were 84 responses seeking a total of $579,218.** (The maximum request allowed was $10,000.) **Twelve coalitions were funded for $2,500 and eight coalitions received $7,660.**
- Organized a forum for legislators to present and discuss their violence prevention bills in March 1999.
- Sponsored our second annual violence prevention conference " Building Partnerships for Peace: Tools for Preventing Violence in Our Communities" focusing on skills for building community violence prevention coalitions in May 1999.
- Re-printed and distributed the Prejudice/Discrimination -Based Violence Prevention Resource Guide.
- Sponsored three trainings focused on coalition development and action planning at sites across the state.
- Re-printed and continued to distribute the guide for parents and teachers, "Help Children See Through Violence in the Media". We have sent them by request to many parts of the U.S.

FY 2000 $200,000

- Issued a Request for Response for $100,000 for coalition building and community-wide violence prevention initiatives. **There were 98 responses seeking a total of $620,000**. (The maximum request allowed was $7500). **Ten**
- **coalitions were awarded $2,500 and ten coalitions were awarded $7,500.**
- Offered two workshops on grant writing, for community coalition members, in Northampton and Brockton.
- Organized a Task Force meeting that featured a play on school violence in December 1999.
- Organizing a meeting in Lowell with the Lowell Police Department that will feature a panel on [illegible]
- Planning the third annual violence prevention conference "Building Healthy and Safe Communities: Continuing the Momentum" on May 10, 2000.
- Planning an intensive training on coalition building and [illegible] planning for teams from [illegible] violence prevention coalitions modeled on our June 1998 program
- [illegible] networking opportunities for violence p[illegible] ists
- [illegible] school and agencies on violen[illegible] Hubs throughout the state
- [illegible] of transforming the guide "Help C[illegible] violence in the [illegible] and [illegible] request.

MASSACHUSETTS VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force

FY 2000 Grantees

Rehobeth Police Department
Hampshire Regional School-Community Coalition / Westhampton
Abington Healthy Youth Initiative
Brookline Domestic Violence Roundtable
Dedham Youth Commission
Latino Community Against Youth Violence / Boston
Upper Cape Domestic Violence Roundtable / Maspee
Williamstown Violence Prevention Coalition
Franklin County Coalition for a Safe Community
Main Street South Community Development / Worcester
Codman Square Public Safety Committee / Dorchester
G.A.T.H.E.R. / Attleboro
Northampton Violence Prevention Task Force
Southwick Family Support Coalition
Watertown MCAP
Children's Friend and Family Services / Salem
Greater Brockton CHNA
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence / Southeast Asian Families Against Domestic Violence / Lowell
Haverhill Teen Coalition
Wareham Public Schools

Summaries of Proposals

The Franklin County Coalition for a Safe Community –

Now in its twelfth year, the Franklin County Coalition for a Safe Community plans to use MVPTF funds to underwrite the expenses of a special event and the attendant publicly, child care and transportation costs for our annual Week of Awareness, the first week of May 2000. In addition, grant monies will be used to conduct a survey and evaluation process that will enhance our efforts at coalition-building and program development.
Wendy Foxmyn, Director

The Mediation and Training Collaborative
277 Main Street Suite 401
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-774-7469 – ext.

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
On behalf of
Southeast Asian Families Against Domestic Violence

Formed in 1991, Southeast Asian Families Against Domestic Violence (SAFADV) is a group of individuals and organizations dedicated to addressing the problem of domestic violence within the Southeast Asian communities in Lowell, which is the home of an estimated 35,000 Southeast Asians. SAFADV has recently administered a needs assessment in the Cambodian community on issues surrounding domestic violence. This groundbreaking survey focuses on the Cambodian community, rather than grouping all Asian ethnicities into one group. The findings of this needs assessment show that a high number of community members have experienced domestic violence. They also show that attitudes that allow domestic violence to occur continue to be prevalent in this community.
The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence has received a grant on behalf of Southeast Asian Families Against Domestic Violence to support outreach, prevention, and education activities designed to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in the Cambodian Community. These activities include monthly SAFADV round table meetings, where representatives from other agencies are invited with the purpose of educating them on domestic violence and cross-cultural issues and enlisting them in SAFADV's mission. Other outreach activities are conducted by the Task Force's Lowell Outreach Advocate, who goes directly into the Cambodian community and speaks with community members. IN collaboration with SAFADV, THE Task Force will also conduct two community forums focused on the results of the needs assessment. The first event will target members of the Cambodian community, the second the mainstream service provider community. Specific findings of the needs assessment will be distributed, community input will be sought for recommendations to accompany these findings, and implications for outreach and education activities within the Cambodian community will be discussed. The findings of the needs assessment and community recommendations will be used to fine-tune outreach efforts within the Cambodian community.
Carmen Lopez

Dedham Youth Commission

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". The Dedham community recognizes the potential for violence within any community. The town in taking a proactive approach recognizes the value of communication and planning amongst the town's agencies. As such, funding from the MVPTF will be utilized to formalize an ongoing Violence Prevention Task Force in Dedham. The Task Force will facilitate communication and planning. Funds will be used to produce a strategic plan and long range goals for the Task Force. In addition, providing information to teens about local area resources is recognized as a prevention strategy. Funds will be used to print a wallet size informational card that will be distributed to Dedham teens.

Thomas Clinton (781) 329-6550

G.A.T.H.E.R. –Safe Families – Safe Pets

This program, G.A.T.H.E.R. –Safe Families – Safe Pets, has been developed to incorporate a concept borrowed from RI Coalition of Domestic Violence. It will be offered through the Domestic Violence Committee of the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Health Education Response (GATHER), which encompasses the thirteen towns located in the Massachusetts Dept. of Public health CHNA #24.

The program will have two components. The first will provide awareness and education to schools, community members, veterinarians and elder service providers because animal abuse is a well-documented indicator of family violence, including child abuse, domestic and elder abuse. The second segment will develop a partnership with a minimum of two veterinary hospitals or animal shelters located within the CHNA to address the problem of pet care for the owners who need the safety offered by a battered women's shelter.

The Domestic Violence Committee of the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Health Education Response (GATHER) the Massachusetts Dept. of Public health CHNA #24.
Ann Koch (508)252-5080

Abington Healthy Youth Initiative

The Grant will allow Abington's Healthy Youth Initiative (HYI), as a coalition, to study the results of the Spring 1999 survey of current assets in Abington's youth in depth, and constructively formulate an action plan that targets high risk behaviors and encourages our youth to believe that our entire community recognizes and values them and their efforts. Our members will be invited to attend the forum supported by funds from this grant to learn strategies and techniques that are research based to build relationships with our youth, spend time with them, and to consider becoming a volunteer, as a tutor, mentor, or youth leader. If HYI can work toward developing and fostering positive assets, high risk behavior patterns including violent behavior – bullying, fighting, hitting, injuring a person, carrying a weapon or threatening physical harm – will diminish. Ultimately the converse will result in thriving behaviors and our Abington youth will be and feel successful in and out of school. Diversity will be valued, youth will strive for good health, and each individual will make informed decisions. With increased community participation, support, involvement in HYI, our youth will know that we are a community that values them, that we are committed to teamwork, and that our mes[illegible] promoting, encouraging, and [illegible] in all youth. Our proactive stance will be to [illegible] youth and valued [illegible] viewing their community as one who appreci[illegible] and recognize the [illegible] make to the total community at large. The [illegible] the importance of

fostering the development of self-discipline, responsible behaviors, hard work, and good citizenship in Abington youth. Positive proactive behaviors in youth will increase and violent high-risk behaviors will decrease.
Joanne Mullaney (978) 982-2175

Watertown MCAP

FY2000
Community Violence Prevention Initiative

The Watertown MCAP is the *Local Community Partnership* which includes all community organizations, state and local agencies and initiatives, who provide direct services and support to Watertown's youth and families. The Watertown Youth Coalition is a subcoalition of the Watertown MCAP. It has a long evolving history, but was formed last January, 1999, in response to a community presentation of the 1998 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, and with the support of a Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force Grant. This Violence Prevention Initiative will support activities that reduce community violence.

This Initiative seeks to build on collaboration with the Watertown School-Linked Services Initiative, the Watertown Boys and Girls Club, the Watertown Public Schools, and the Watertown Public Housing Development. It will provide anger management and communication skills training to parents living in Watertown's public housing developments and to parents of identified high risk youth. The Watertown Boys and Girls Club will implement two youth training programs to teach violence resistance and conflict resolution skills. A community wide program will involve parents and middle and high school youth in a media literacy presentation designed to teach critical frameworks that enable youth to analyze media productions which appeal to impulsive behavior. Thirty high risk youth who are currently receiving intensive services through the Watertown Public Schools, will participate in an anger management program and be given opportunities to experience a diversionary outdoor adventure activity.

Bryan Magliocca (617) 926-7733

Codman Square Neighborhood Council
Public Safety Committee
Violence Prevention Coalition

Mission and Goals 2000

Our Mission is to provide a "violence-free zone" in central Dorchester. To ensure safety for both the residential and business community by the reduction of the occurrence of crime, and seeking to prevent crime and violence in all settings.
To encourage all schools to increase violence prevention and safety curriculum (by using the Louis Brown Peace Institute curriculum); to encourage closer communication between police officers and residents, through meetings, social events and crime watch groups block by block (as begun by Retail District Safety Initiative); to have teen peer leaders teach at Citizens School- Wilson campus, while promoting "violence- free home contracts" signed by parents and youth; promote reading at home (through ReadBoston campaign); continue to conduct crime "surveys" to assess trends and address any specific hot spots (with police department); and encourage increase of youth programs and jobs from 2 6p.m.

[illegible] Neighborhood Council
[illegible] Loesch
[illegible]

Brookline Domestic Violence Roundtable

The Brookline Domestic Violence Roundtable will use grant money awarded to it by the Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force to hire a well qualified graduate student who will assist us in assessing the needs and assets in Brookline, convene a retreat of Roundtable members and others to review our mission, goals and objectives, advance a strategic plan for the next several years, and (based on the results of the planning process) sponsor a community education workshop on *Violence*, which will serve as a vehicle to build and strengthen the Roundtable. The graduate student will also assist the Roundtable in the production of its monthly television program "The Safety Net".
Stephen Bressler (617) 730-2330

The Latino Community Against Youth Violence

Violence is very real to Latino teens and pre-teens in Boston. When they are offered opportunity to speak with ex-gang members for example, students ask, "how do you say no to joining a gang or doing drugs in the face of peer pressure?

Action for Boston Community Development Citywide Hispanic Center is very happy to receive this grant from the Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force to build The Latino Community Against Youth Violence Coalition. A key part of the Citywide Hispanic Centers mission is networking and collaborating with other Boston Hispanic organizations.
El Centro Del Cardenal, Sociedad Latina, ABCD University High School, Roxbury Multi Services, Neighborhood Services Mayors Office, and others will join together with the Citywide Hispanic Center to help Hispanic have violence free, economically productive futures. The funding will enable us to conduct an organizing and recruitment meeting for the coalition; develop its mission statement and strategic plan, and hold a kick off *Hispanic Youth Violence Prevention Event* as part of violence prevention month.
Jenny Cintron (617) 357-6000

The Upper Cape Domestic Violence Coalition

The Upper Cape Domestic Violence Coalition was formed in the fall of 1994 to reduce the incidence of Domestic Violence through education, awareness and direct assistance to victims and their families. Funds received from the Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force Grant will be used to strengthen commitment and build consensus within the membership of the coalition.

Consultation from the outside will be sought for help in clarifying goals and objectives and enhancing effectiveness. Funds will also be used to provide trainings for Coalition members and to sponsor a Cape wide conference on Domestic Violence Prevention. The expected end result is a new energy and renewed commitment from members of the Coalition which in turn will be conveyed to the community at large.

Ann Howell (508) 539-1480
Mashpee, MA 02649

The Southwick Family Support Coalition

The Southwick Family Support Coalition aims to raise community awareness of domestic violence and to educate members of the community about what can be done to address the problem. These goals will be achieved through the work of a Community Safety Coordinator, four parent leaders, and a Prevention Policy Board. Materials will be distributed throughout the community, including "Safe Haven" stickers for businesses, Safety Cards in public restrooms, and "There's No Excuse for Domestic Violence" bumper stickers. Outreach efforts will also include enlisting the help of local media to publicize awareness and prevention efforts.
Pennie Sibley (508) 569-3456

The Hampshire Regional School-Community Coalition

The Hampshire Regional School District is located in the five rural towns of Westhampton, Southampton, Chesterfield, Goshen and Williamsburg in Western Massachusetts. The school district is taking the lead in establishing a community coalition to enable the violence risk reduction program that is currently centered in the school to expand into the entire community.

A community coalition will be established through community forums for adults and youth from all five towns. With the assistance of a consultant hired through the grant from the Massachusetts Violence Prevention Task Force, a mission statement will be developed and goals, objectives and a strategic action plan will be created. The overall purpose of the coalition is to mobilize people provide community-based violence risk reduction programs that compliment the work already being conducted within the school.

Janice Doppler (413) 527-7200
Westhampton

Rehoboth Police Department

The Grant will allow the established group of community representatives to continue to expand to include those groups not currently represented. It will allow for expansion of the existing database, which is based mainly on Domestic Violence incidents to which police respond and the recent middle and high school students Youth Risk Behavior Survey. It will provide funding for a consultant to assist with the survey and the tabulation of results. additional materials for community awareness education to augment [illegible] currently made available to [illegible] from the school district. It will allow the community to identify current programs, identify duplication of services and identify unmet needs for further planning.

[illegible] (508) 252-3722

The Main South Community Development

The Main South Community Development Corporation, Boys and Girls Club, Worcester Community Action Council, Clark University, and the Main South Alert Center have collaborated together along with residents of the neighborhood. We already work closely with the Worcester Police Department, Health and Code, Clark University, and our local neighborhood groups. Conflict resolution will give youth the necessary skills, including communication and negotiation, for them to obtain skills to prevent violence in their environment.
Jennifer Bourassa (508) 752-6181
Worcester

The Williamstown Violence Prevention Coalition

The Williamstown Police Department will be able to create the Violence Prevention Coalition, which will allow for greater community input on developing proactive methods and programs geared toward violence prevention and education. Furthermore, funding will permit the Police Department – in conjunction with the Violence Prevention Coalition – to create educational brochures, develop training programs and workshops, and produce violence promotional advertisements for local media, which coincide with the goals of the Coalition.
Sgt. Vincent Zoito (413)458-3500

The Greater Brockton CHNA

Violence Prevention Social Marketing Campaign

The Greater Brockton Community Health Network Area (GB/CHNA) will develop a ***Violence Prevention Social Marketing Campaign*** targeted to three largest ethnic groups in Brockton, namely Latinos, Haitians, and Cape Verdeans. Currently each of these groups is represented on the GB/CHNA *First Generation Immigrant Families Committee (FGIF)*, which serves as the oversight committee for the grant. Initial outreach efforts will be aimed at recruiting additional members from these communities, who will assist in the development of a violence prevention marketing campaign aimed at their local communities. Leaders from these communities will participate in cross training and educating GB/CHNA members as to how to reach their prospective communities. CHNA members will assist in the development of an appropriate message and the most impactful mechanism for promoting that message. The information learned in how to outreach and market to these targeted communities will invaluable to the many organizations of the Greater Brockton CHNA wishing to provide or receive services from the targeted communities and new community members are empowered to take action for their community.

Donna LeClair (508)894-4329

Northampton Violence Prevention Task Force

For the past five years, a primary [illegible] violence prevention efforts in Northampton has been [illegible] and violence prevention [illegible] ual funding was received from the Ma[illegible] Prevention Task Force [illegible] mentary schools, much of the [illegible] high school stude[illegible] ssroom children's feeling of safet[illegible]